

U.S. House, District 6

Open seat (Andy Barr running for U.S. Senate).

Ralph Alvarado

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Physician; former Kentucky state senator (2015–2023) and Tennessee health commissioner.

Zach Dembo

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Navy veteran; former teacher and federal prosecutor.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress “to work for peace and to reject war and violence.”* [Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 \(Vatican News via The Good Newsroom\)](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No public position found.

ZACH DEMBO

Supports aiding Ukraine and Taiwan and “deescalating this War of Choice in Iran”; says Congress must have oversight before going to war.

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: Stop Endless Wars](#)

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *“No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data.”* [Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 1 (2017), right-to-work law barring union membership or fees as a condition of employment

ZACH DEMBO

Wants AI child-safety safeguards, notice before workers are replaced by AI and an industry-funded retraining fund; says “I’ll fully support the PRO Act.”

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: AI and data centers](#)

[\[2\] Dembo campaign: Rebuild the American Dream](#)

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is “a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society.”* [Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

Says he would work with Republicans and Democrats to fix health care, lower costs, “increase transparency, and give patients more control over their care”; no public position found on Medicaid or the 2025 reconciliation law.

[\[1\] Alvarado campaign site](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 7 (2022), restrictions on public assistance and cash-benefit use; veto override

ZACH DEMBO

Would reverse Medicaid cuts, restore and expand ACA tax credits, add a public option and set a minimum wage of at least \$15 an hour.

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: health care](#)

[\[2\] Dembo campaign: Rebuild the American Dream](#)

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion “cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life.”* [Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SB 9 (2019), prohibits abortion after detection of a fetal heartbeat, with medical-emergency exceptions

Yes HB 148 (2019), prohibits abortion if Roe v. Wade is overturned

Yes HB 3 (2022), abortion regulations including parental consent and abortion-drug rules; veto override

ZACH DEMBO

Supports a right to abortion in the first trimester, would vote to codify Roe v. Wade and protect IVF; backs universal pre-K and an expanded child tax credit.

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: women's health care](#)

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty “is not really pro-life.”* [AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 269 (2022), bars execution of people with a serious mental illness diagnosis

ZACH DEMBO

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *“Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

At his campaign launch pledged to “stop the invasion at our southern border once and for all” and align with the “America First” agenda.

[\[1\] Spectrum News: Alvarado launches congressional bid](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SB 1 (2020), prohibits sanctuary policies and requires agencies to support federal immigration enforcement

ZACH DEMBO

Supports enforcement against violent criminals and a secure border, but says ICE needs body cameras, unmasked agents and better training; backs a path to citizenship for long-term workers.

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: immigration reform](#)

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is “the right of every person to worship according to conscience.”* [Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HB 563 (2021), an act relating to school choice — vote to override the governor's veto

ZACH DEMBO

No public position found.

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.”* [AP, Oct. 1, 2025](#)

RALPH ALVARADO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SB 100 (2019), lets regulators reset rooftop-solar net-metering compensation rates

ZACH DEMBO

Wants local input and environmental accountability in data center siting so Big Tech cannot pass energy costs or pollution onto communities.

[\[1\] Dembo campaign: AI and data centers](#)

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